

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 15, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Eric Cantor
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Minority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear House Leadership:

We are writing to express our concerns about the effects that the sequester and a yearlong Continuing Resolution (CR) for Fiscal Year 2013 would have on the U.S. Navy and workers in Maine. We support finding a balanced approach to reduce our deficits and address our long-term debt, but Congress must act to ensure that any reductions in spending are made carefully and in a manner that avoids job losses.

Recent information provided by the Navy indicates that both Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) and Bath Iron Works (BIW) would face dramatic cuts if the sequester is implemented or Congress fails to pass a defense budget and resorts to a CR for the remainder of the fiscal year. In anticipation of the sequester and a yearlong CR, the Navy will begin taking cost-cutting actions this month, including reducing funding for deployments, canceling ship maintenance in Quarters 3 and 4, cutting base operations and support, making selected furloughs, and freezing civilian hires. In the coming months, they would cancel more ship repairs, including on the USS Miami, reduce ship operations and flying hours, and cut exercises and port visits.

Additionally, a direct consequence of the yearlong CR is the cancellation of a DDG 51 currently scheduled to be awarded in FY13, which will threaten the ship's multiyear procurement plan and the associated \$1.5 billion in savings. These actions would have a devastating effect on defense facilities – and their employees -- across the country, including PNSY and BIW in Maine. PNSY employs 4,700 civilians, and BIW employs more than 5,000 employees. Cuts to these Navy programs will jeopardize approximately 10,000 jobs at these facilities alone.

These cuts will also have a severe effect on the thousands of jobs in the defense supply chain in Maine made up by dozens of small businesses throughout the state. Simply put, Maine's economy will be devastated if the Navy is forced to take these measures to reduce their spending.

We are pleased that the House Appropriations Committee is preparing a CR that would ensure the Navy will not have to take all of these steps to reduce its funding. We urge you to bring sensible legislation to the floor as soon as possible to responsibly address these looming appropriations and sequester questions and prevent thousands of Mainers from losing their jobs.

Sincerely,



Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

cc: House Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers
House Appropriations Ranking Member Nita Lowey
House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee Chairman C.W. Bill Young
House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee Ranking Member Peter Visclosky